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Message Text

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70
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 /070 W
---------- 124111
R 041359Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6565
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SY
SUBJ: INDICATIONS OF MORE INCIDENTS PLANNED BY MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD AGAINST AUTHORITIES

REF: DAMASCUS 1039

1. RELIABLE SYRIAN SOURCE IN TOUCH WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING HAMA DISTURBANCES AND WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SYMPATHIZERS IN DAMASCUS ADVISED EMBOFF MARCH 1 THAT BROTHERHOOD MAY BE PLANNING "NEW INCIDENTS" IN HAMA. HE SAID THAT IDENTITY OF ASSASSINS OF SECURITY CHIEF GHURRA HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCOVERED. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT INVESTIGATION HAD SO FAR YIELDED NO EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN GHURRA MURDER.

2. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT GOVERNOR OF HAMA HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY PRES ASAD TO ACCOUNT FOR PROKBLEMS IN HIS DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, GOVERNOR COMPLAINED THAT HAMA HAD RECEIVED LITTLE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING IN COMPARISION WITH NUMEROUS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR ALMOST ALL OTHER PROVINCES. SOURCE ASSERTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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ASAD IMMEDIATELY RELEASED 50 MILLION L.S. FOR HAMA

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (NOTE: SYRIA PRESS RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED PLANS TO CONSTRUCT LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
IN HAMA DISTRICT, TARGETED FOR COMPLETION BY BEGINNING
NEXT SCHOOL YEAR).

3. SOURCE STATED THAT HIS CONTACTS DESCRIBE "YOUTH OF
MUHAMMAD," WHO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GHURRA SLAYING
(REFTEL), AS "MILITARY WING" OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD,
ACTION ARM OF THE MOVEMENT WHICH IN TIMES PAST
WOULD LEAD BROTHERHOOD DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST COMMUNISTS
AND OTHER POLITICAL ELEMENTS IT OPPOSED. HE ADDED THAT
BROTHERHOOD WAS CAREFULLY WATCHED IN DAMASCUS, BUT THAT
SURVEILLANCE MORE DIFFICULT IN HAMA. AUTHORITIES WERE
CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY CONTAIN BROTHERHOOD IN ALL
CITIES EXCEPT HAMA, HE CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO SEE NO INDICATION IN
DAMASCUS THAT SARG BELIEVES IT UNABLE TO DEAL WITH
CHALLENGE BY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD. WE HAVE HEARD NO
REPORTS OF ARRESTS OURSIDE HAMA, NOR HAVE WE DETECTED
ANY SIGNS INDICATING REGIME'S ANXIETY TOWARD ITS
SECURITY.
MURPHY

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